

REMARKS

Claims 1, 30, 49, 52, and 72 have been amended to broaden the scope of the claims. No new matter has been added.

Applicant hereby provisionally elects Species 1 with traverse. At least claims 1-13, 24, 30-41, 49-62, and 72 are readable on the elected species.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 30, 49, 52, and 72 so that they more clearly read on FIG. 4. Accordingly, Applicant believes that this response fulfills the election requirement.

In light of the amendments herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's election requirement and requests the examination of all the claims of the application with the claims relating to Species 1. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion that no claim is generic, Species 1 includes claims generic to unelected claims. Specifically, amended claim 1 is generic to claims 14-23, which depend therefrom, as well as claims 25-29. Likewise, amended claim 30 is generic to claims 42-49, which depend therefrom. Further, amended claim 52 is generic to claims 63-71, which depend therefrom, as well as claims 73-77.

Applicant's election is made without prejudice. As noted by the Examiner, upon the allowance of a generic claim, Applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species, provided that all claims to each additional species are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.146.

Application No.: 10/602,716
Election and Amendment dated January 14, 2005
Reply to Office action dated December 14, 2004

Docket No.: M4065.0904/P904

An action on the merits of all the claims and a Notice of Allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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